September 7, 1989

Dear Friend, Contributions

On June 24 of this year, about 75 members and friends of the Topfree Coalition went to Durand Eastman Beach for a picnic. The mostly topfree women, men and children had a great time sunbathing, playing, swimming - a very normal picnic. ~~Except for the first half hour or so when some men were noticed staring from the top of the bluff,~~ No particular notice was paid us, even though there were many other people on the beach that day. The picnic proceeded for a couple of hours before a Sheriff's boat was seen out from shore. For the next 1/2 hr. or so, the boat's occupants were seen watching us through binoculars. Then the Sheriff's Dept. came in. At ~~this point women~~ the girls were approached individually and given a "choice" of putting their shirts on or being arrested.

Ten women refused to put their shirts on and were arrested. We were then taken to the Sheriff's cars where Prisoner Data Reports were filled out. The Rochester Police Department was called in to transport us downtown. As our action was a violation and not a crime, at no time did they read us our rights, search us, etc. However, they did make a point of letting us know that as prisoners we had no rights; they put us in a paddy wagon and took us downtown where they locked us in a holding cell. All of this for a violation more equivalent to a traffic ticket than any criminal act.

Before being allowed to leave, the women were required to have shirts on. As three of the women arrested did not have shirts with them, male supporters waiting in the lobby took their shirts off so that the women could put them on. This final scene which took place at the Public Safety Building truly depicts the discrimination of this law.

Our goal is to win this case at the highest state court level, the Court of Appeals in Albany. This will possibly involve the case being heard on three levels; City Court, the Appellate Court and the Court of Appeals.

A law which makes ~~the~~ an exact same action illegal for a woman, but upholds a man's right to that action is clearly discriminatory. Please help us in our fight against this unjust law. Contributions for legal expenses are being accepted by the

~~TOPFREE~~ COALITION for Topfree Equality
237 Vassar St
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Thank You.
The Topfree Ten.